## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 21, 2007

The Honorable Max Baucus Chairman Senate Committee on Finance 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Charles Grassley Ranking Member Senate Committee on Finance 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are writing to express our support for reauthorization of the Title V Abstinence Education Program (Section 510) of the Social Security Act, which is set to expire on June 30, 2007. This important program provides \$50 million in formula grants for states to conduct abstinence education activities.

Abstinence education is a public health strategy focused on risk avoidance that aims to help young people avoid exposure to harm. These programs have been shown to effectively reduce the risks of out-of-wedlock pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases by teaching teenagers that saving sex until marriage and remaining faithful afterwards is the best choice for health and happiness.

In addition to teaching teens about risk-avoidance, these programs also teach teens how to protect themselves from abuse by recognizing and rejecting inappropriate sexual pressure. These programs provide teens with a clear message of health and help them develop personal boundaries and refusal and leadership skills in order to negotiate teen pressures.

Reauthorization of the Title V Abstinence Education Program is critical in supporting communities who wish to promote good and healthy choices for our nation's adolescents. These funds help communities implement quality abstinence education programs and teach their children important lessons about health and character that will impact them their entire lives.

We thank you for your continued interest in the issues that impact the lives of millions of youth across the country

Sincerely,

David Vitter

David Vitter

U S Senator

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U.S. Senator

Lindsey Graham U.S Senator [10]

U.S. Senator

John McCain

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Jim DeMint US Senator